

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MEETING WITH CUBAN MISOFF, DECEMBER 8.

1. CUBAN SECOND SECRETARY SALADO VILLACIN SOUGHT OUT MISOFF AT ARGENTINE RECEPTION, EVENING DECEMBER 8, TO CONVEY THE FOLLOWING, WHICH HE INDICATED HE HOPED COULD BE TRANSMITTED TO WASHINGTON:

2. ACCORDING TO CUBAN, HIS COUNTRY WAS NOT BEHIND THE FOURTH COMMITTEE RESOLUTION ON GUAM: SYRIANS WERE INSTIGATORS AND DREW CUBANS IN BASED UPON CUBAN ROLE ON QUESTION LAST YEAR. SALADO VILLACIN ADDED THAT, "AS US HAS OBSERVED, EVEN WITH GUANTANAMO SITUATION", CUBA NEVER IN THE PAST HAS FOSTERED ANTI-US RESOLUTIONS CONCERNING VIRGIN ISLANDS, GUAM, OR SAMOA (SIC).

3. SALADO VILLACIN ADDED THAT HE WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED THAT CUBAN ROLE ON GUAM HAD BEEN MISINTERPRETED BY AMERICAN PRESS, SINCE CUBA WAS VERY EAGER NOT TO AFFECT ADVERSELY WHAT HAVANA HOPES WILL BE IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH THE US FOLLOWING INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER. CUBANS ARE "PATIENT AND WAITING".

4. CUBAN ADDED THAT BOTH HIS COUNTRY AND THE US HAVE CHANGED GREATLY SINCE BAY OF PIGS. "GONE ARE THE DAYS OF BOTH CHE GUEVARA AND THE ALLIANCE FOR PROGRESS".

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5. SALADO VILLACIN OBSERVED THAT TERRORISM STILL PRESENTS A GREAT IMPEDIMENT TO IMPROVED RELATIONS. WHY CAN'T THE CIA AND FBI CONTROL CUBAN EXILE TERRORISTS? MISOFF REPLIED, UNDERLINING FACT THAT THERE WAS NO OFFICIAL US INVOLVEMENT AT ALL IN RECENT TERRORIST ACTS, AND THAT US SYSTEM DOES NOT INCLUDE "CONTROLLING" ITS CITIZENS. AT THE SAME TIME, OF COURSE, WE DEPLORE SUCH TERRORIST ACTS. SALADO VILLACIN SAID POLITELY THAT HE "UNDERSTOOD" SUCH CONTROLS ARE NOT POSSIBLE HERE. HE LAMENTED NONETHELESS THE ACTS (BUT IN VERY LOW KEY FASHION).

6. CONTINUING, SALADO VILLACIN REGRETTED SUSPENSION OF HIJACKING AGREEMENT, ADDING THAT CUBANS STILL HAVE UNTIL APRIL TO RETURN TO ITS TERMS. HE NOTED THAT CUBA ALREADY HAS UNOFFICIAL CONTACTS WITH THE US, THROUGH CONGRESSIONAL "FRIENDS" AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES, BUT WISHED BETTER TIES. HE LAMENTED FAILURE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS FOLLOWING 1975 INITIATIVE, CONCLUDING THAT IF ONLY TERRORISM COULD BE ELIMINATED, ALONG WITH EMBARGO, "GOOD RELATIONS" BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES COULD RESULT. SCRANTON

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